

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1988, April 27, 1957

SHIRLEY ABICAIR IS A SONG HUNTER

A popular singer talks to CN about her favourite hobby

SHIRLEY ABICAIR, the Australian girl who often sings and tells Bush stories on BBC Children's TV, and has recently been seen in her own evening song series with Humphrey Lyttelton, reckons that she must have the most unusual mail-bag of any singer.

"Not only do I get the usual requests for pictures and autographs, but people of all ages send me songs, or write to tell me about old songs and folk songs that they have heard," Shirley Abicair told a CN correspondent who went along to interview her a few days ago.

For Shirley specialises in folk songs of the world. She sings them to her own zither accompaniment and she collects them as other people collect stamps or old china.

An old music shop or antique dealer with bundles of old music is a magnet to this 26-year-old Australian girl. She never knows what old song copy she will unearth to add to her big collection.

GENUINE ANTIQUE

"My best piece of luck in this direction was a song called The Eddystone Light, which I found in a Portsmouth antique shop. I was particularly pleased about this because when I was a student at Sydney University a few years ago I used to hear one of our professors singing this at student parties.

"Unfortunately he would never allow me to copy down the words! He said that if I had them he would be without his party piece."

Shirley took great delight in writing home to tell the professor that she now had the words—twelve thousand miles away, so he need not fear any competition from her.

The most popular of her songs at the moment, says Shirley, seem to be: Waltzing Matilda, Skip To My Lou, The Fox, April in Portugal, Little Boy Fishing, Careless Love, Rockin' Chair, and the Malayan song brought home by our prisoners of war called Terang Boe Lan.

"Very often when I sing one of the really old folk songs people write and send me other versions of the words which they tell me they had from their grandmothers, or found in old books," said Shirley.

BEDTIME STORY

"Sometimes parents write to ask whether I can arrange to be on TV or radio early in the evening because once their children know I'm coming on they insist on staying up, which makes for difficulties in the home!

"One of the most charming letters I've ever had came a week or so ago, after I had sung Little Boy Fishing. It was in large solemn printed capitals, written by a boy of 4½ for him and his little sister who, he said, was 2½. Little Boy Fishing is their favourite song, he wrote, and when would I be able to sing it again?"

The Abicair trademark to most viewers and listeners is the zither, that flat-



Model village for holiday visitors

It has taken Mr. John Simmonds of Southsea two-and-a-half years to build this model village on a vacant plot leased from the Portsmouth City Council. He has included shops, farms, and a sports field as well as little people and animals.

stringed instrument which Shirley places on her lap and gently plucks as an accompaniment to her folk songs. She owns two of them, which were given to her by a notable variety artist of some years back called Cliff Edwards, better known as Ukelele Ike.

AT THE UNIVERSITY

"My mother, who is very musical, had a zither at home in Melbourne, and I learned to play it. I have been hearing folk songs at home ever since I can remember. I used to sing at University parties, and that led me into a cabaret engagement in Sydney. That's where I met Cliff Edwards and his ukeleles.

"He was fascinated by my little zither. Then one evening he came in and presented me with two. He had found them in an antique shop near Sydney Harbour. Those are the two I use in my work now."

ABICAIR HOUSE

Shirley Abicair has leaped to fame and success with her zithers and folk songs and her gay, refreshing way of singing. One of the marks of success that pleases her most, however, is the fact that in a new school near Coventry named after Sir Henry Parkes, who emigrated from the Midlands to Australia a century ago and became a great figure Down Under, is a House named after that new young Australian, Shirley Abicair.

OIL SEARCH ON AN HISTORIC ISLE

Dirk Hartog Island, some 600 miles north of Perth, is the latest scene of activity in the search for oil in Western Australia. It was here that the first recorded landing in Australia by Europeans took place on October 25, 1616, when a Dutch captain, Dirk Hartog, anchored his ship long enough to rest his crew ashore. He recorded his landing on a tin plate which he nailed to a post.

Some 80 years later another Dutch skipper, William Vlaming, landed and replaced Hartog's memento with another plate, taking the historic tin plate back to Holland, where it is now in the National Museum, Amsterdam.

(Vlaming's plate was eventually removed and lost until 1938, when it was discovered in a French museum. It is now in Canberra.)

The first British ship connected with the island was the Trial, which was wrecked off it in 1622. Of her crew of 133, only 46 managed to reach Batavia in Java.

Dirk Hartog Island was, until recently, an uninhabited stretch of sand and salt brush 40 miles long and from five to seven wide. Despite its history, it is little known in Australia, for it is not near any regular shipping route, and only a few people have ever been there.

Now oil prospectors have begun the first drilling at a chosen spot. Drilling rig for the job had to be brought 3000 miles overland from

Queensland, and shipped by naval craft from the tiny fishing village of Denham across the 30 miles of sea dividing the island from the Western Australia coast. With the equipment went a bulldozer to clear a road through the salt brush from the beachhead to the drilling site.

From a place of centuries-old solitude, Dirk Hartog Island has become one of noise and bustle, disturbing the big sea-birds, the shags, which nest there.

There will be a far greater transformation if the oilmen's search is successful.

TREES FOR GRATITUDE

Southampton is to receive a consignment of trees from the citizens of Wellington, New Zealand, in appreciation of the care given to New Zealand soldiers at the Netley Hospital, Southampton, during the 1914-18 war.

The trees include forest giants, some shrubs, which have golden flowers in the spring, and some trees famous for their red blossoms at midsummer.

They are arriving in the liner Dominion Monarch, which for over 20 years has sailed between Southampton and Wellington by way of Cape Town and Melbourne. Among the passengers is Wellington's director of parks who will help with the planting of the trees.



Shirley Abicair with a friend

MR THORNEYCROFT'S BUDGET

By the CN Political Correspondent

WHEN our M.P.s return from their Easter recess they will be taking a long, keen look, lasting until July, at the Finance Bill or Budget introduced by Mr. Thorneycroft on April 9.

It is clear that this Budget should be seen in its relation to the next two Budgets. This is the reason.

A few days before the Budget Speech Mr. Sandys, the Defence Minister, presented a White Paper outlining a Five-Year Plan for the streamlining of Britain's defence forces.

One major purpose of the plan is gradually to cut the cost of defence. These economies will run into hundreds of millions of pounds as time goes on. As the taxpayer pays for defence the cuts will enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give more tax reliefs.

That is the objective. Three Budget years are chosen because



The Rt. Hon. Peter Thorneycroft

after the Budget of 1959 this Parliament will for practical purposes have run its legal course and we can expect a General Election.

The present Budget is therefore designed as a modest start to a series of larger tax cuts later. These will affect many more people than Mr. Thorneycroft is able to help this year.

FAMILY MAN

This was Mr. Thorneycroft's first Budget. He became Chancellor when Mr. Macmillan succeeded Sir Anthony Eden as Prime Minister last January.

He is a family man, and it was not surprising, either, that his main changes were devised to help families, or to hear him say about Father, the married man with children: "I have been examining the problem in the knowledge that children, particularly if they continue in full-time education, cost more as they grow older."

What is this problem? At present, when Father fills in his income tax form, he puts down his annual earnings. Then he is allowed to subtract something for certain items. One of these subtractions is £100 for each child up to the age of 16—and after 16 if the youngster remains at school or goes to a university.

Now Mr. Thorneycroft intends to increase these allowances. They will remain at £100 for each child under 12, but when a child reaches 12 the allowance will go up to £125, and there will be a further increase to £150 as from the year in which a child becomes 17.

So long as you are in "full-time education" or training for a career, and not contributing to the family income, this allowance will continue to be deducted from the net income on which your father pays tax.

Another important change brought in by Mr. Thorneycroft affects surtax. This is paid—at 10s. 6d. in the £, compared with the "standard rate" of 8s. 6d. tax paid on income—on earnings above £2000 a year.

Hitherto the various allowances, including those for children, have been given to people with incomes below this figure. But the pound is worth much less now than it was in 1920, when the £2000 figure was fixed.

Mr. Thorneycroft, therefore, is extending the allowances on incomes above £2000.

DEARER TELEVISION

The other main change arises from a cut in entertainments tax. Theatres and various sports—such as professional football, tennis, and athletics—will be exempted from the tax on admission tickets.

But to make up for this loss to the revenue parents will have to pay £4 instead of £3 a year for the combined television-radio licence they get from the post office.

Purchase tax is halved—from 30 to 15 per cent—on various household goods, mostly pots and pans, cutlery, carpets, and lino. To make such things cheaper is an important part of the Government's policy to lower the cost of living.

Mr. Thorneycroft has also decided to scrap the extra shilling a gallon tax on petrol which was imposed last winter when the Suez Canal was blocked to our oil tankers.

RED JACKET FOR FLAG

A scarlet jacket was recently hoisted at the flagstaff of the Sherwood Foresters' depot at Normanton Barrack, Derby, to commemorate a famous battle honour.

It was the 145th anniversary of the action of Lieutenant McPherson in scaling the walls of the fortress of Badajoz during the Peninsular War and hoisting his jacket because he had no flag. He belonged to the 45th Regiment, now the 1st Battalion, Sherwood Foresters.

Tom Brown's century

It is just a hundred years since Tom Brown's Schooldays, that most famous of all school stories, was first published. How many thousands of boys, one wonders, have since received it as a prize and enjoyed its robust and lively picture of school life?

Written by Thomas Hughes, it is partly the story of his own school life at Rugby, though he always maintained that Tom Brown was not a portrait of himself. He wrote it in a house at Wimbledon, and it first appeared, anonymously, in April 1857. Though intended for boys, the book caught the adult fancy as well, and five editions of it were printed in nine months.

Encouraged by its success, Thomas Hughes wrote several other books, including Tom Brown at Oxford, but none achieved the fame of his first. The book was also an outstanding success in America.

UNFORGETTABLE PICTURE

The appeal of Tom Brown's Schooldays never dies. Thomas Hughes thoroughly understood boys, and in his famous book he depicts the chivalry and courage, as well as the mischief of which they are capable. He gives, moreover, an unforgettable picture of Rugby in the days of the noble and high-minded Dr. Arnold, one of the greatest headmasters of all time.

Thomas Hughes was a man of many parts. Member of Parliament, barrister, and a county court judge, he was also associated with a group of earnest men, Charles Kingsley among them, who combined deep religious faith with an ardent desire to improve conditions of life for their fellow men. But it is as the author of Tom Brown's Schooldays that he will ever be remembered.

BARBARA WINS A BICYCLE

The Bicycle offered in CN Competition No. 11 has been awarded to

BARBARA CUNNINGHAM,
Grove Park,
London, S.E.5.

The next-best efforts, which win Fountain-pens, were sent by: Margaret Allison, Mansfield; Norman Appleby, Bishop Auckland; John Coppack, Chester; John Gardner, Croyley Green; John Glass, Belfast; Kathleen Holroyd, Loughborough; Jennifer Klaber, London, N.W.8; Claire Norman, Wolverton; Guy Rowston, Luton; and Janet Weston, Devizes.

Solution: A—Norman; B—Decorated; C—Early English; D—Perpendicular; E—Saxon.

BAGPIPES IN MOSCOW

The citizens of Moscow will hear the stirring strains of the bagpipes this summer. The Bowhill Colliery Pipe Band, world champions of 1947, are to visit the World Youth Festival in Moscow, July 20 to August 15.

News from Everywhere

The bells of Lincoln Cathedral are to be silenced from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. because they have been disturbing sleepers.

The Great Yarmouth herring fleet will soon have a new kind of vessel—a Dutch-type lugger trawler. Two are being obtained from a fleet being built in Poland. The crews will be instructed by Dutch experts on their native methods of gutting and salting herring.

SEA SCOUTS ASHORE

Britain's Sea Scouts are being provided with a new headquarters—on dry land. The base, at Long Ridge, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, will consist of a camp of tents, although later it is hoped to have permanent buildings.

Rainmaking experiments have raised the annual rainfall over a wide area of South Australia by more than 25 per cent, states the Chairman of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. The method is releasing silver iodide smoke into clouds from aircraft.

A colour film of Homer's Iliad is made jointly by Greek and Russian studios.

Written in copperplate for many centuries, the Journals of the Common Council of the City of London are now being typed on an electric machine.



Profitable hobby

Douglas Maw, a sergeant in the Heston and Isleworth A.T.C., took up the hobby of photographing aircraft both in flight and on the ground. Last year he sold over 750 of his pictures to various units, for aircraft recognition, and also to private owners. Here he is seen with some prints from his big collection.

There is to be a second transatlantic telephone cable between Britain and Canada. It should be completed by 1961. Since the first cable was completed last September telephone communication between the two countries has trebled.



Clearing the way overhead

In the banks along roads in Cornwall even small trees send out branches in such a way as to damage passing buses. So Western National are using one of their vehicles as a platform for tree lopping. Working on the roof the men can see exactly which branches are dangerous.

The Children's Newspaper, April 27, 1957

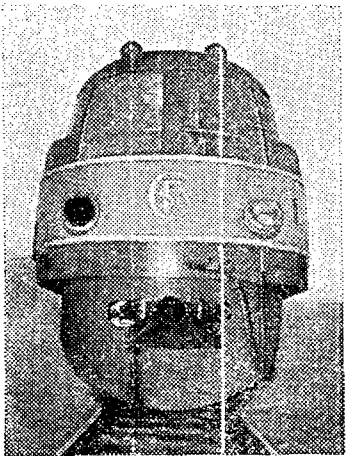
3

PENDULUM COACH

A new type of rail-car is being developed by the French National Railways to overcome the discomfort of passengers as the train goes round bends at high speed.

The top half of the coach is suspended on pivots near the roof over each set of bogies, so that it can swing freely with a pendulum movement.

As the train goes into a bend, centrifugal force swings the top



outwards, so that it lies at an angle of up to 18 degrees from the vertical—in much the same way as a cyclist leans inwards as he turns a corner. This movement of the top half of the coach means that the passengers are not swung outwards by centrifugal force. Speeds of over 75 m.p.h. have been reached without discomfort to those travelling.

PRICE ON THEIR TAILS

Wild pigs which roam the forest-clad hills of New Zealand have a price on their heads—and tails.

Hunters and farmers who shoot wild pigs can claim a bounty of a shilling for every pig snout or tail which they bring to the rangers of the New Zealand Forestry Department.

These wild pigs are descended from pigs of early settlers and some of those introduced by Captain Cook, and are therefore known as Captain Cookers. They escaped into the forest years ago and their descendants have become very wild and fierce and grow to a formidable size. They cause damage costing hundreds of thousands of pounds every year by attacking sheep, and especially lambs, on hill-country farms.

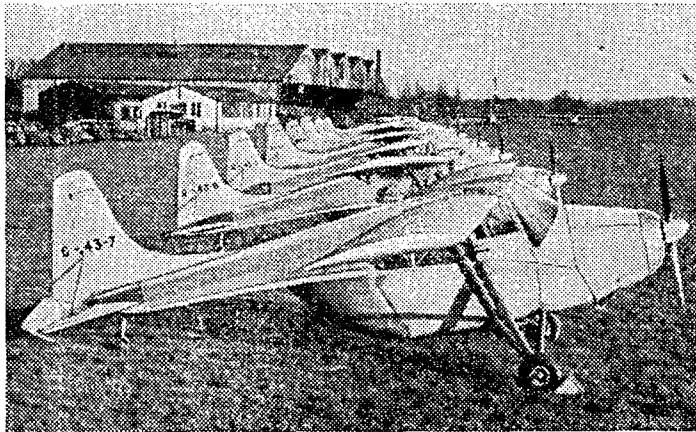
Scandinavian hospital in Korea

After six and a half years of fine service in Pusan, South Korea, the Swedish Red Cross is closing its hospital there.

Since September 1950, shortly after fighting broke out, the hospital has treated 18,000 United Nations soldiers and 320,000 Korean civilians.

Sweden will, however, still be represented in Korea; for, with Norway and Denmark, she has made plans for setting up a hospital in the South Korean capital at Seoul for training local medical assistants.

Britain's flying jeep



Percival E.P.9's lined up on the aerodrome at Stapleford, Essex

Britain's new Percival E.P.9 should have a great appeal for farmers all over the world. With this plane a farmer can fertilise his crops, carry pigs or sheep or chickens to market, or take up to five members of his family on day trips to distant towns.

Dubbed the "flying jeep" by

farmers who have used it, the E.P.9 can actually carry the same load as other aircraft of almost double the power and more than twice the price.

The aircraft is powered by a 480-h.p. Lycoming engine which gives it a top speed of just under 140 m.p.h.

FIDO THE FAITHFUL

Dogs are famous for their fidelity, but there has never been one more faithful than the aptly named Fido, who is cared for by the villagers of Luco di Mugello, near Florence. His story is told in the National Canine Defence League's paper.

Fido's master, Carlo Soviani, was killed in 1943, but the dog thinks he has merely gone away

and will one day return on the bus he always travelled by.

Every evening Fido awaits the once-daily bus at the local stop. Hopefully he watches the passengers descend, and when the last has departed, he jumps in and searches the vehicle, even looking under the seats. Through the years he has never missed meeting the bus every evening.

ALCOHOL SAVES WATER

Evaporation causes huge losses of water from reservoirs; but from Australia comes news of a highly successful method of preventing such loss. It consists simply in spreading a thin film of cetyl alcohol over the surface of the water, where it remains. (Cetyl alcohol is found in the wax obtained from whale oil.)

Tests carried out at a reservoir in one of the driest parts of New South Wales resulted in a saving of over 200 million gallons in 14 weeks. This was equal to six weeks' supply for the Broken Hill district served by the reservoir.

Giants of old

The fossilised bones of a giant rhinoceros, believed to be some 20 million years old, have been found in the Tuscan marshes, in Italy. When this formidable monster roamed the earth it was 20 feet long and its smallest tooth measured nearly three inches.

While mines were being cleared from a cliff face near Trimmingham, Norfolk, two big pieces of fossilised tusk were uncovered by a bulldozer. They are believed to be relics of a prehistoric mammoth. One piece is four feet six inches long.

This extinct animal lived when the North Sea was dry land with pine forests. It looked like an elephant, but was larger and covered with long hair.

REG HARRIS EXPLAINS

Why the new STURMEY-ARCHER 3-SPEED GEAR makes history

STURMEY-ARCHER have provided faster, easier cycling for over 50 years. Theirs are the finest cycle gears in the world—light, compact, strongly made and reliable. They prove themselves the pioneers again by introducing the new SW, a 3-speed gear 1" smaller in diameter and weighing 4 oz. less than previous models. It is a wide ratio gear, with a 38.4% increase and 27.7% decrease from normal. It is ideal for the everyday cyclist, giving maxi-

mum speed with minimum effort. Whatever kind of cycling you do, SturmeY-ArchER can provide just the right variable gear. Their wide range, consisting of both 3- and 4-speed hubs in wide and medium ratios, are precision built from high quality steel. They give years of service and are completely trouble free. Remember too, that the famous SturmeY-ArchER brake hubs' and 'Dynohub' hub lighting sets are the finest in the world.

SW 3-speed wide ratio, 38.4% increase, 27.7% decrease from normal. The ideal hub for the everyday cyclist.

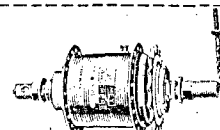


How's this for precision! Every moving part of a SturmeY-ArchER hub gets eight dimensional tests varying from one hundredth to two thousandths of an inch! That's how you get maximum efficiency with minimum wear.

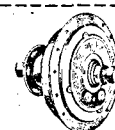
STURMEY

ARCHER

for speed with ease



FM 4-speed Medium Ratio. 12.5% increase, 14.3% and 33.3% decrease from normal. The best all-round Club gear.



GH6 6-volt Front 'Dynohub' which like all 'Dynohub' lighting sets is mechanically frictionless and trouble free.



Patent "Flick" Trigger Control provides instantaneous gear change by the flick of a finger.

CS2

ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

SUCCESS HAS MEANT A SHORTER HOLIDAY

Accordion too heavy for Jimmy

LESS TALK AND MORE MUSIC

Two 15-year-old boys from Bolton School are cutting short a holiday in France to take part in Playbox in this Wednesday's BBC Children's TV. John Boulter and Michael Greenhalgh—together with Mary Gladman, 15-year-old pupil of Manchester High School—scored 100 per cent in the recent Inter-Regional Playbox Quiz against London.

In this week's final Playbox they meet Birmingham, who beat a team from Cardiff in the semi-final. But this Wednesday John and Michael were expecting still to be in France, holidaying with French families 200 miles south of Paris. Not to miss the chance to represent the North in this TV final, they got permission to

curtail their holiday by a few days so as to be at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, for the programme.

In previous Playbox quizzes John and Michael have had to identify breeds of dogs, people and places in films, mistakes in a commentary, pictures of politicians, and so on.

Eamonn Andrews' Playbox is directed by Vere Lorrimer and produced by Cliff Michelmore. The first edition was in April 1955, and in all the 29 programmes since then not one of them has missed an edition, nor has the team changed.

In the final both the winners and runners-up will be presented with silver cups.

JIMMY CLITHEROE, due to start his new series of Call Boy in the Light Programme last Wednesday, still sees life through the eyes of a mischievous ten-year-old, as you can guess from hearing him exchange chat with the artists



Jimmy Clitheroe

back-stage in the BBC Variety studio in Manchester.

Jimmy graduated into show business by way of Sunday school concerts and a touring children's troupe—all girls except himself. He wanted to play the accordion but it was too heavy, so he changed it for a saxophone.

The Badminton Horse Trials

No young rider will want to miss the Badminton three-day Horse Trials in BBC Television, starting this Thursday. First visit in the afternoon will be to the dressage arena, where riders put their mounts through all sorts of tests at the walk, trot, and canter to show if they are balanced and disciplined. Later, in Children's TV, the cameras will call at the arena, where show jumping will round off the trials on Saturday.

The most spectacular event is on Friday afternoon, when cameras will be at key positions on the tough 17-mile cross-country course. It begins with a ride round Badminton Park, followed by a two-mile steeplechase, a stretch of roads and tracks, four or five miles across open country, with some 30 fences, and finally a gallop in on the flat. The three days' event will be summed up in a tele-recording on Saturday night.

Looking ahead

WHAT of the future? This is the theme of Parade in the Light this Thursday, the last in the current series presented by the Younger Generation. How do people see their future? What do they want from it? What does it demand of them?

Bill Costello will introduce a selection of replies from young people in Glasgow, London, Edinburgh, and North Wales. There will be additional comments from two Commonwealth countries—Canada and India.

MATCHBOX collectors and people with other less known hobbies may have periods to themselves in Network Three, a new sound radio programme starting up in October on the Third Programme wavelengths. This was indicated by Sir Ian Jacob, Director-General of the BBC, at a recent Press conference on the re-shaping of sound radio to match up to the advance of television. It is hoped to save ten per cent in sound radio costs, or £1,000,000 a year.

Sir Ian told us the Third would be cut from five hours a night to three, the other two hours, from 6 to 8 p.m., being devoted to listeners whose interests—such as hobbies, particular sports or professional studies—do not have a wide enough appeal to figure in the Home and Light.

Meanwhile the Home and Light will undergo changes, too. To economise, they will sometimes

join to form a single programme during the day, but when schools broadcasts or other special items are being transmitted there will be an alternative.

Sir Ian said the Home Service will be for those who want to listen attentively, and the Light for the sort of entertainment called "background." On both services there will be less talk and more music.

"In the past radio programmes have often been over-elaborate," said the Director-General. "Music programmes especially have had too much talk."

I asked Sir Ian whether there was a chance of saving money by combining some of the TV programmes and items from sound radio.

"No," was his reply. "Except for the occasional symphony concert, we have found that sound and TV have little to offer each other."

Tommy Cooper discards his fez

HAVE you noticed what a different type of Tommy Cooper we are seeing on Associated-Rediffusion these Monday nights? He has thrown away the red fez he used to wear when I first met him in the Alexandra Palace TV studios some years ago. Tommy has also given up conjuring, temporarily, anyway.

Tommy is as mad as ever, though, as you can see from the picture. The viewfinder is fastened on his eyes, the camera lens on his throat—and the title could be Sound and Vision.



Carol wants to dance

IT'S not often that a successful young actress like 17-year-old Carol Wolveridge admits that her first love is ballet. To be a ballerina, however, is still her main ambition, and nothing inspired her more than dancing last Christmas in the corps de ballet of Where the Rainbow Ends with Markova in the principal rôle.

Next Sunday, we see Carol as an actress again, this time in BBC Children's TV as Sara Crewe, the heroine in the serial of that name. The serial is based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's famous story, The Little Princess.

Adapted by Penelope Knox and produced for TV by Naomi Capon, it tells of Sara's sad childhood. When her mother dies, her father brings her from India to England and places her in a select school for young ladies. Soon after he dies, too, and poor Sara—without money or friends—becomes a household drudge. It

won't spoil the story if I mention that the ending is a happy one.

Not long ago Carol was seen in the ITV play Gerty Maud, and she also appeared in the film The Bad Seed.

Over there

WE can watch living history in Over There, a U.S. documentary film in BBC Television at 9.10 p.m. this Thursday. It's the story of the First World War—1914 to 1918—as seen through American eyes with actual films taken at the time.

The United States was then breaking through barriers of isolation for the first time to take part in a war on the other side of the Atlantic. This documentary, showing the frantic excitement this action brought about, was produced by Henry Salomon, who was responsible for the famous TV series, Victory at Sea.

Cameras on the stars

YOUNG viewers interested in astronomy will be sorry that BBC Television's new monthly programme called The Sky at Night starts as late as 10.30 p.m. We have to thank the summer for that, however, with its long days and late sunsets.

The Sky at Night, opening this Wednesday, will be conducted by Patrick Moore, author of many astronomical books, and he hopes to act as guide to the heavens, drawing attention to interesting events expected in the coming month.

Producer Paul Johnston tells me he plans from time to time to have a telescope on the roof of Lime Grove studios. One of the devices employed will be a coelo-

stat mirror which, by clockwork, compensates for the rotation of the Earth, so that neither the telescope nor the TV camera needs to be moved while watching the moon, stars, or planets. This was successfully used for the first televising of the moon at Alexandra Palace in 1949 and again for pictures of Jupiter which were taken from the roof of the Lime Grove studios in 1952.

The Sky at Night will also have films, photographs, and diagrams. In the first programme we can expect reference to the Comet Arend-Roland, which was discovered last year and has this month been coming within visual distance of the northern hemisphere.



Study of the heavens

Boys of the Hawes Down Secondary School at West Wickham, Kent, have become very keen on astronomy. So the woodwork and metalwork classes set to and made the stand and tube of a reflecting telescope. The tube is open at the upper end and has a highly polished mirror at the other which reflects light to a small mirror near the top, with an eyepiece opposite. In our picture Colin Annesley is at the eyepiece while some of his fellow pupils stand by to take notes.

VERCHENEY IS NO ORDINARY VILLAGE

HIGH on a hilltop overlooking the valley of the Drôme River in south-eastern France is a village called Vercheney. But it is no ordinary village. The houses may look the same as those in any other French village, and there is nothing unusual about the streets. But the inhabitants of Vercheney are all children, and this is their story.

In 1946, hundreds of homeless orphans roamed the streets of Paris. Their parents had been killed in the war, and there was no one to take care of them. Many of these youngsters kept alive by begging or stealing. Some of them had been in orphanages at one time or another, but had run away. All were unhappy and lonely.

Then, Robert Ardovin, a young man with a big heart, decided he wanted to help them. But what could he do? He had no money, no social welfare training, no

rented an old and dilapidated house in Montreuil, a suburb of Paris. They repaired it as well as they could, and that winter, the freezing winter of 1946-47, they toured Paris looking for homeless children.

They found them, huddled together in corners and in subways, trying to keep warm.

"Come with us," Robert and his friends told the children. "We can give you a home. It may not be much, but it will be yours."

And they came, these children, and formed a "children's republic," run by children for children, the older ones caring for the younger. The community was self-governing and new officers were elected every year.

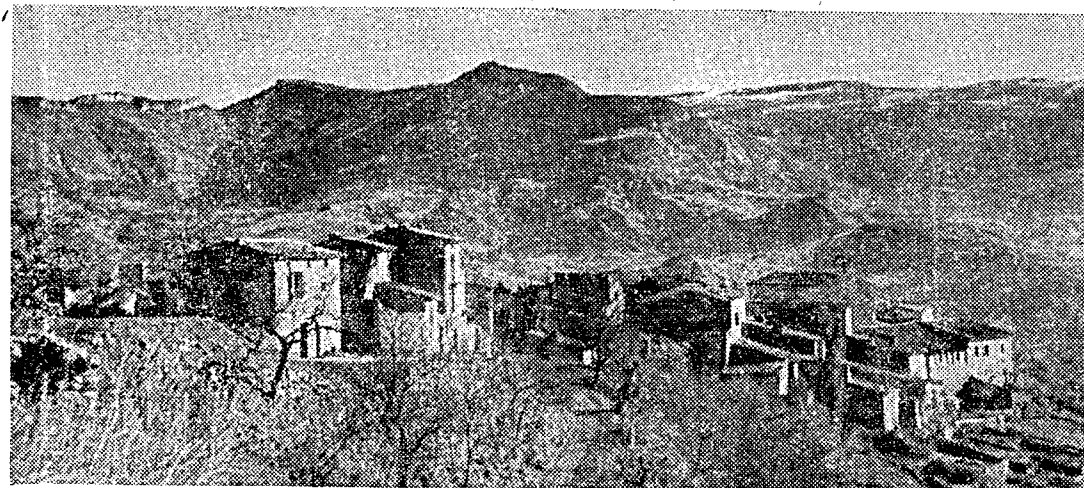
That house in Montreuil was known as The Home of Light. Streams of children came there. No one was ever turned away. But Robert and his friends spent many sleepless nights: this growing family of theirs had to eat.

A NEW HOME

Soon, too, the house in Montreuil was bursting at the seams. And this is where Vercheney comes into the story. Mrs. Pierre Daumas heard of The Home of Light, of its good work and its troubles, and gave the village of Vercheney to Robert Ardovin as a home for these children. It was a whole village where no one was living; a deserted village that was merely a collection of houses and a church, all sadly in need of repair. And around it lay 900 acres of uncultivated land.

So it was that the little community set out for their new home in south-eastern France.

"Vercheney was a sad sight when we arrived," says Robert Ardovin. "And just imagine those slum-dwellers having to coax a



The children's village of Vercheney on the edge of the Alps in south-eastern France

living from this poor soil without knowing anything at all about farming."

As they sat there dejectedly on their arrival, looking at the houses with caved-in roofs and the surrounding land all overgrown with weeds, a neighbouring farmer came up to them. "I'm only a childless, useless old man," he told them. "Would you care to adopt me, too? We'll throw your land and mine together and all work together for the common good!"

Hope was born anew. Under the farmer's expert guidance 400 acres of land were ploughed, and fruit trees and vegetables planted. After the boys had done a hard day's work in the fields, they would work with a will at repairing the sagging houses. Was it not their own village and their own land they were bringing back to life?

UNESCO TO THE RESCUE

Then, just when all was going well, a new crisis came to trouble Vercheney. Children orphaned by the recent wars in Indo-China and Korea began pouring into the village. To make room for the newcomers, the older members went to live in unheated tents.

"This time," says Robert, with a smile, "Unesco saved the day."

Under a programme sponsored by this United Nations agency,

young people from Great Britain, Canada and the U.S., and sixteen other countries, made a fine gesture of human brotherhood and helped the community to put up new houses.

Vercheney looks far different from that day when Robert and his young friends first arrived. Now there are flowers and green fields and orchards, houses and barns and workshops. The boys have restored the old church, and they have built a brand-new community hall, where films are shown twice a month.

What has made Vercheney so successful? Why are the children so happy here? Robert Ardovin's

answer is quite clear and emphatic: "We try to develop the same atmosphere to be found in a happy home. We try to help each member of our big family to lead a fuller and better life, equipping them for their rightful places in the world. A printing-shop for boys, a weaving industry for girls, and training in other useful pursuits for those who don't like farming."

The children of Vercheney have received more than bread from Robert Ardovin and his friends—they have received love and understanding. And they have learned to trust in the Lord.

MAURICE MOYAL

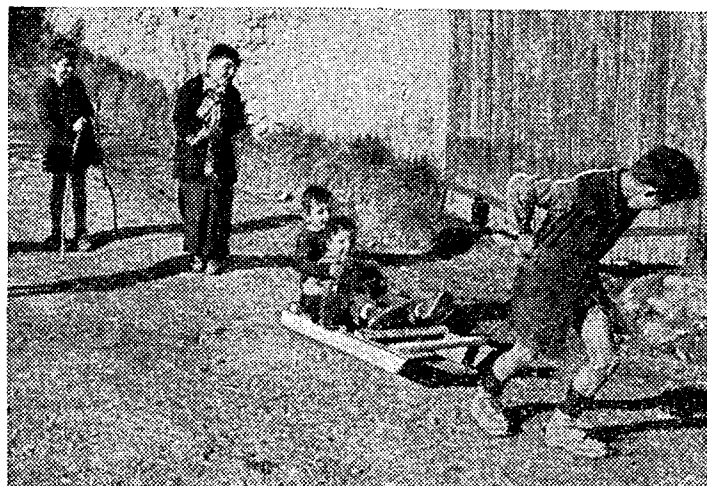


Work is fun in Vercheney

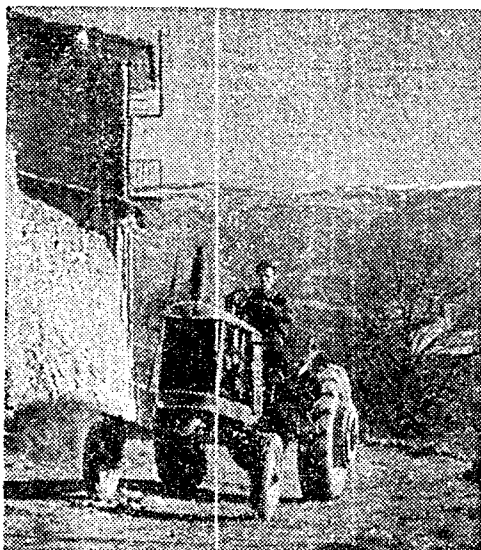
official support. But he loved children, and was willing to work hard to help them.

First, he asked himself, what made so many run away from the orphanages they had been placed in? Weren't they well treated? Didn't they have enough to eat? Yes, but these children needed more than bread—they needed the love and comfort of a home. Robert Ardovin decided to do what he could to give them such a home.

With three of his friends, he



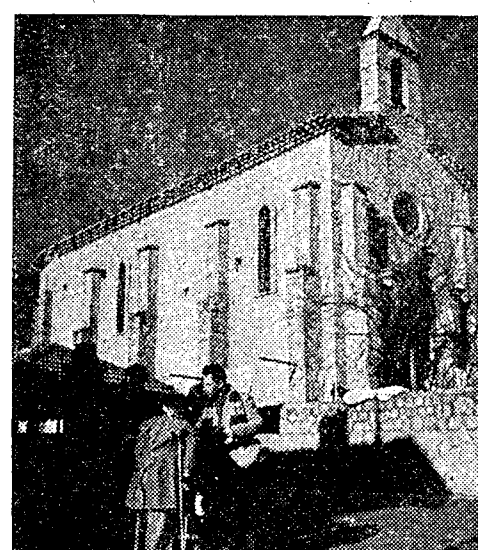
No one to look after them, but happy looking after each other



The tractor is a gift from Canada and a fine help for young farmers



Soccer on the Alpine slopes. The goalkeeper, an air-raid casualty, is nevertheless renowned for his skill



Robert Ardovin, the founder, on his rounds delivering mail outside the church

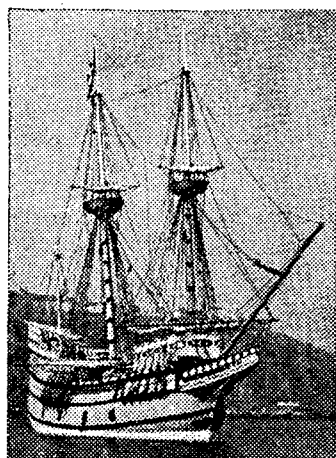
Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars . London . EC4
APRIL 27 1957

BON VOYAGE!

By the time these lines are being read, the little ship Mayflower II should be well out in the Atlantic, rolling on her way to Massachusetts. It is a voyage to stir the imagination.

Built entirely by British hands, Mayflower II is being presented to the United States as a goodwill gift; and at Plymouth, Massachusetts, she



will be preserved as part of a national memorial to the Pilgrim Fathers.

This memorable voyage will perhaps take six weeks—much depends on the winds. What is certain is that when the little ship comes within sight of Massachusetts the thoughts of all aboard her—and all who watch—will go back to that solemn moment in 1620 when the doughty band of Pilgrims in that other Mayflower first glimpsed journey's end on that wild New England shore.

They will be recapturing one of the greatest moments in the history of the English-speaking peoples!

The Editor's Table

DOG ON THE TILES

THIS is the sad tale of an Alsatian named Médor, an inveterate cat-chaser who lives at Angers in France. One day he pursued a cat into a house, followed her up three storeys into the attic, and leapt after her through an open window onto the roof. Then, sliding down the tiles, he found himself perched precariously in the gutter.

Médor looked down at the street far below, and then up at the window; but he had lost his nerve and dared not move. Meanwhile the cat, a little farther along, calmly washed behind her ears and occasionally glanced at him with what our French neighbours call "un air narquois" (a sly look).

People in the street, attracted by the strange sight of a dog on the tiles, summoned the fire brigade to the rescue.

It was, surely, enough to make a cat laugh!

Think on These Things

It is through Jesus that our sins are forgiven. Wrong-doing must bring shame and disaster if it is unchecked. God must maintain a standard of what is right.

We read in the Gospels of the young man who was paralysed, and whose friends brought him to Jesus to make him well. When Jesus saw that young man, He said to him: "Thy sins are forgiven."

It is just the same with us. When we are sorry for the wrong things we do, and tell Jesus so, He says to us: "Your sins are forgiven." And it is really true.

But Jesus has taught us to pray to God to forgive us our sins as we, accordingly, forgive those who sin against us. And this condition is absolute.

O. R. C.

YOU AND OTHERS

IF you live for yourself you will find yourself surrounded by enemies. Live for others and you will feel yourself surrounded by friends, and the good of each one will become your good.

Tolstoy

Unwanted visitor

A RHODESIAN housewife in Livingstone recently found a crocodile on her doorstep; the Zambezi floods had spread there, encouraging it to go a-roaming. And like some thick-skinned human callers, it could not see when it was not wanted.

The lady of the house and her servant had to prod the visitor energetically with brooms and sticks before they could persuade it to go away.

Matchstick Minster



This scale model of York Minster is being built out of matchsticks by Christopher Chandler of Brighton. He expects the job will take him six months.

HOW TO SUCCEED

YOU have resources; you must use them. You are not more stupid than others; why should you not succeed as well or better? Seek a way to use your talents and you will find it. If you do not find it it is that you have not searched well enough. Success is always there when you take enough trouble.

Lack of success means that you are working on wrong lines. Try others. Nothing succeeds by itself, but by your efforts. Use every means you can and they will not fail you. Seek reasons for failure if you do not succeed and then change your course of action. That is all.

Marshal Foch

THEY SAY . . .

RECENT disagreements have done nothing to weaken the bond between the U.S.A. and Britain. In fact, they may have brought about greater understanding.

Sir Pierson Dixon

BRITAIN is confronted with complicated and tough problems, and I certainly admire the courage and nerve with which she is trying to solve them.

President Eisenhower

THIS is the highest-taxed country in the world, and when money is short the housewife always punishes herself. If she has any money left over from her usually tight budget, she is more likely to spend it on her home and family.

Mrs. Amy Murdoch, of the British Housewives League

LOSS of hearing through industrial noise will in time be considered in Britain as an industrial disease.

Lecturer at Southampton University

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, April 30, 1927

TELEVISION is coming apace; we are even promised sets by Christmas.

The way a picture is taken is very like the making of what we call a process block for reproducing photographs in the C.N. It is easy to see that these pictures are broken up into spots, and that the darkness or lightness of these spots makes up the scene. In television similar spots are wired or wirelessly, as spots of light of varying degrees of brightness. At the New York demonstration the pictures were divided into 2500 such spots, or squares, and the picture was changed 18 times a second.

About 45,000 spots were transmitted each second, and it is calculated that completely satisfactory pictures will only be possible with 300,000 spots a second.

JUST AN IDEA

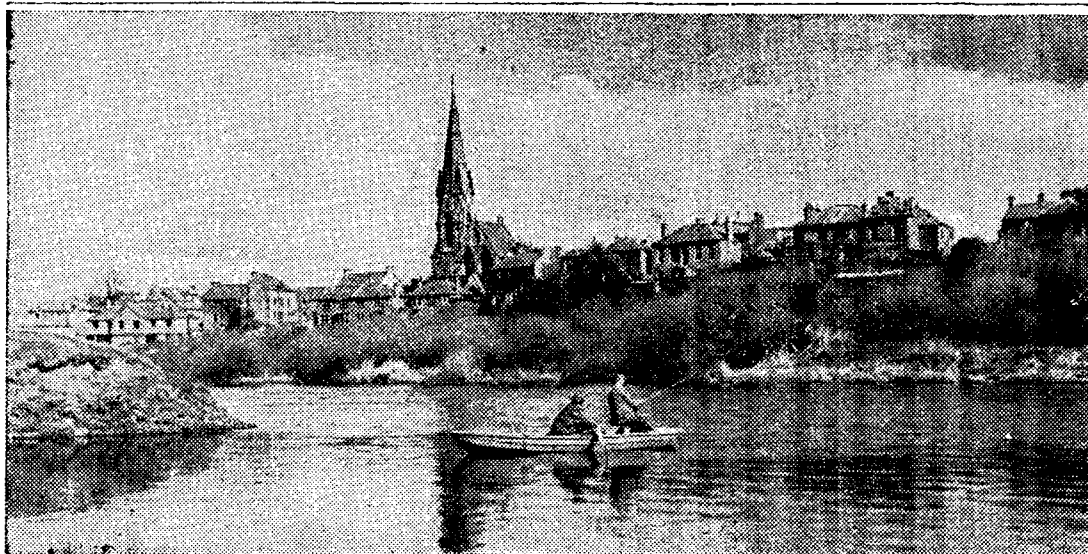
As Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote: A moment's insight is sometimes worth a life's experience.

JUST A FEW WORDS

HERE is an entertaining way to increase your knowledge of words. Each numbered sentence below is followed by three answers or comments you might make; but, in each case, only one is correct, and shows that you have understood the meaning of the word in *italics*. To answer five or six correctly is very good.

Answers on page 12

- He has a good *vocabulary*.
A Speaks very clearly.
B Knows many words.
C Likes his job.
- We saw a *piebald* horse.
A Black and white.
B It had not much hair.
C Without a tail.
- The countryside was *arid*.
A Grass-covered.
B Fertile.
C Parched.
- They came to a *medieval* castle.
A Built in the Middle Ages.
B It had a sinister look.
C It stood on an island.
- Their army has *capitulated*.
A Invaded.
B Won.
C Surrendered.
- He *grimaced* violently.
A Shook his fist.
B Pulled a face.
C Shouted harsh words.



OUR HOMELAND

Fishing for salmon on the Tweed
at Kelso, Roxburghshire

The Children's Newspaper, April 27, 1957

DAYS IN THE HUT COUNTRY

HOW TO LISTEN TO COUNTRY SOUNDS

I REMEMBER a glorious April even-when Betty and Iain sat with me among the blackberry that edges the steep slope of Bracken Bank. Far below us the burn rippled like a golden ribbon through the meadow in the still warm rays of the setting sun. The soft gurgle of the water, a black-bird's mellow song from the Dell-without-a-Name, and the fainter calling of a wood-pigeon added to the peaceful quiet in which we sat and listened.

Then Iain said: "But, Hut-Man, the countryside is awful silent!" and his sister added: "Nothing but a bird or two calling—and the rippling of the burn, of course."

This was very shortly after the twins had left the city to live in the old-grey-house-among-the-limes, just half-a-mile downstream from my own hut. They had been telling me how silent the countryside seemed to them.

A head of himself



At the age of five Roderick Bowie has the distinction of seeing a model of his own head sent in by his mother for this year's Royal Academy. On the handing-in day for sculpture he proudly accompanied her to Burlington House.

"Is that really all you can hear just now?" I asked. "Just two bird voices and the sound of the burn?"

"Why, what else is there?" Betty asked.

"The trouble with most people is that they pay too much attention to their eyes. We become so interested in the things we see that we neglect the things we hear, and to such an extent that we do not realise we have heard them at all."

"Oh, Hut-Man," said Iain, "do you really mean that there are sounds we *could* hear, and that we don't hear them because of our eyes?"

"That's just what I do mean, Iain," I replied. "And to prove it let's go down to the burn for a little experiment."

Slipping and leaping, we descended the steep bank, crossed the meadow, and settled ourselves in the secluded little corner where

the burn twists in a graceful S-bend. Here the banks were golden with celandine, and among them we sat looking down at the clear water as it rippled over the golden-brown pebbles.

"Now," said Betty, "prove that there are wee sounds going on which we don't hear because of our eyes, Hut-Man!"

"Well," I began, "are you watching the running water?"

"Yes," replied the twins.

"And listening to it?"

"Yes!"

"And you're quite sure you can hear all it's telling you?"

"Of course!"

"Right then," I continued, "now let's close our eyes, quite gently, and go on listening!"

THE SOUNDS BEGIN

So we bowed our heads, closed our eyes, and listened; but scarcely had we begun the experiment when Iain whispered, "Hut-Man, you're right! D'you hear it, too, Betty? The burn sort of woke up whenever we began listening that way!"

Betty just said, "Oh, hush, Iain!" and once again we sat and listened.

But it was not only the little hidden stream sounds that surprised the children. Betty suddenly whispered, "Oh, listen, Iain . . . hear that dog barking, ever so far away!"

"And those sheep calling!" went on her brother. "They're faint as faint, but I can hear them!"

"Aye, those are the moor sheep from far away on the other side of Calder Glen. That must be a good three miles . . ."

"Ah," interrupted Betty, "listen both! Hear it? A tiny wee sort of scrappy sound! Whatever can that be?"

We all looked up, and there, at the edge of the burn, a brittle, dead reed stem was dipping in the running water, the current continuously moving it against a grey stone. This was the soft scraping sound Betty had heard.

HEARD—AND SEEN

"That's something you'd never have heard with your eyes open, Betty," I said, "though you might have *seen* the movement."

"But listen, Hut-Man," said her brother, "the sounds still go on even though we've opened our eyes! I can still hear the burn's wee gurgly sounds, and the dog, and the sheep . . ."

"And my wee scrappy reed!" added Betty. "Isn't that queer? We hear them now with our eyes open, an' we didn't before we closed them!"

"It's not really queer, Betty," I said, "for they were there all the while. You didn't hear them before only because . . ."

"Because our eyes and ears were sharing our attention!" came two delighted voices.



Five's jolly good company

A ten-day-old lamb called Daisy May is seen here with a few friends at the Variety Kennels, near Petworth, Sussex. Daisy was abandoned by her mother, so she was given a home at the kennels and seems to enjoy a dog's life.

IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK—APRIL 27, 1932

Shakespeare theatre for Shakespeare's town

STRATFORD - ON - AVON—This has been an exciting week for Stratford-on-Avon. The opening of the new 1000-seat Shakespeare Memorial Theatre has brought visitors from all over the world.

Standing beside the quiet waters of the Avon and surrounded by pleasant riverside gardens, the theatre is described as the most modern in the world, and the works of the great dramatist—born here nearly 400 years ago—are being presented on a stage with every 20th-century device.

The theatre was opened on Shakespeare's traditional birthday—April 23—four days ago.

At six o'clock in the morning the bells of Holy Trinity Church rang out, and Stratford women wearing Elizabethan costume strolled through the streets selling sprigs of rosemary, but the Prince of Wales arrived to perform the opening ceremony in his own monoplane which had taken off from Windsor Great Park. When

he mounted the platform in front of the theatre four trumpeters in gold uniforms sounded a fanfare, but the Union Jack and the flags of 74 nations before the theatre were unfurled by the pressing of an electric button.

A crowd of 40,000 people saw the architect of the new theatre, Miss Elizabeth Scott, hand the Prince the gold key for the ceremonial opening of the doors.

The modern stage equipment includes a "bridge stage" formed of two sections which can be raised separately or together to form such things as balconies, battlements and terraces.

There are also—for the first time in Britain in any theatre—two rolling stages which move rapidly and silently and are powered by electrically controlled mechanism.

The lighting equipment is the most advanced ever installed in a British theatre, and can produce backgrounds of great beauty.

The theatre seats an audience of

1000—520 in the stalls, 260 in the balcony, and 220 in the gallery. A green marble staircase leads up to the dress circle, and the walls are panelled with wood.

Shakespeare would be pleased to see how this 20th-century looks after the comfort of its players. The actors have comfortable well-lit dressing-rooms with hot and cold baths and showers.

The former Shakespeare theatre here was gutted by fire six years ago, and the mayor, Sir Archibald D. Flower, nephew of the builder of the old theatre, made a world-wide appeal for funds to replace it, going personally to America to raise subscriptions.

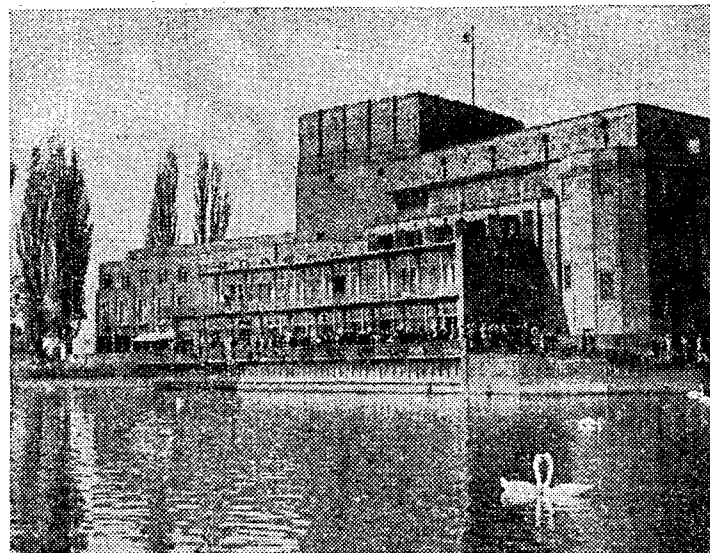
After declaring the theatre open in the name of the King at this week's opening ceremony, the Prince of Wales led his party to the Royal Box at the back of the dress circle. The National Anthem was sung and the curtain rose on the first Shakespeare play in the new theatre—King Henry IV.

Search for Colonel Fawcett

LONDON—It is announced that another expedition, a British team, is to leave England in two months' time to explore the heart of Brazil in search of Colonel Fawcett, his son Jack, and Mr. Raleigh Rim-mell, who disappeared there in 1925.

The party, of almost a dozen young men, hopes to penetrate the jungle and explore the unknown Rio das Mortes (River of Death) for clues of the missing men. Savage Indians are known to inhabit the area, and the young men will face many dangers and hardships.

(This expedition and many succeeding ones have all failed to discover Colonel Fawcett.)



The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre

SHE JUST ASKED FOR AN ISLAND

Back home in Tunbridge Wells, Miss Constance Fairhall has many tales about her hospital patients on Gemo, a small island off the south-east coast of New Guinea.

It is now 21 years since Miss Fairhall walked up the long drive to Government House in Port Moresby, the capital of New Guinea, to call on the governor, Sir Hubert Murray, brother of Professor Gilbert Murray of Oxford.

"I want a hospital," she said, "and I want it quickly." Sir Hubert liked that kind of enthusiasm, and he liked the look of the fresh young nurse from Tunbridge Wells.

"Where will you put it?" he asked.

"Out there," said Miss Fairhall, pointing across the blue reach of Port Moresby Harbour. "On that island of Gemo, where only 60 people live and where there is plenty of sunshine and air."

She asked for an island and she got it.

GIFT FOR 50 YEARS

The 60 people on barren little Gemo said they would let the nurse come provided the hospital she put up was for their benefit. They might have got a good price out of the government, but for the sake of the nurse they would ask nothing, and the gift was for fifty years.

By now little Gemo is open to everyone in south-east Papua who suffers from leprosy or tuberculosis.

The first patients were suspicious of the nurse's ideas. Lepers had always been sent away from the villages to live by themselves, but here was someone who said they could live with other people. Those who had tuberculosis had usually been pushed back into the darkest places of the living huts. But the

nurse on Gemo let them walk about in the sunshine and even bathe in the sea. She said it was good for them.

So Gemo starts every day with bathing. Then everyone gathers round the hospital flag-pole for morning prayers. The flag of Gemo is a special one. It is blue with a silver cross and four stars standing for Faith, Love, Happiness, and Life.

Everyone on Gemo works, and that is why its reputation for happiness stands so high in New Guinea. The leprosy patients make the furniture the hospital needs, and the tuberculosis patients make fishing nets from old motor tyres, turning them inside out and shredding the rubber into string.

ALL PATIENTS FISH

Every patient on arrival receives a fishing line, and as the hospital veranda extends over the water, even the bed-ridden ones can fish. Monday is washing day, and Thursday is firewood-collecting day.

Sports days on Gemo are famous. The events mostly take place in the sea, because that is the easiest place for everyone. Then even those with the worst sores and weakest limbs can play. Fighting for a greased water melon is the most popular sport, but swimming in a sack or carrying a lemon on a spoon in the mouth are popular too.

Hunting for sixpences in a plate of flour is the most uproarious game of all, for the black faces come out white.

Miss Fairhall has broken through many old superstitions and has won the confidence of the people by her friendly, practical ways. Not everyone who has come to Gemo Island for health has found it, but everyone who comes has found happiness.

Sporting Flashbacks

FRIEND OF MOTORISTS FOR 60 YEARS

THIS is the diamond jubilee year of Britain's oldest motoring organisation, the Royal Automobile Club, and as part of their celebrations an exhibition called The Age of the Motor Car is being held in London—at the Tea Centre, Regent Street—until May 4. Afterwards it will be seen at many other towns, including Coventry, Blackpool, Scarborough, Leicester, Bristol, Portsmouth, and Brighton. For everyone interested in cars—and most people are—it offers a fascinating panorama of automobile progress, with the most varied collection of motor car age pictures ever assembled, together with many historic relics.

The Royal Automobile Club—simply R.A.C. to all its members—began its career when 120

motorists met in a room off Whitehall in December 1897. In those days cars were the "new-fangled horseless carriages" which caused consternation when they appeared in the streets, and the 120 enthusiasts were branded as "cranks." It was a modest start; but mighty oaks from little acorns grow, and the R.A.C. has certainly flourished

beyond the dreams of its first pioneers. Today it serves hundreds of thousands of motorists.

It was in 1912 that its first uniformed patrols went into action—those helpful blue-uniformed men whose appearance round a bend in the road has drawn a sigh of relief from many a stranded motorist. Service is the patrolmen's watchword—and it has often taken unusual forms; putting out a chimney fire in an old lady's cottage, for example, or going to the rescue of a frantic mother who had accidentally locked her baby in the car and could not open the door. It is all in the day's work for R.A.C. patrolmen.

It was in 1912, too, that the

Club pioneered the "Get-you-Home" service for motorists whose cars have broken down. Last year nearly 160,000 R.A.C. members were helped in this way.

It is, however, as the ruling authority on motor-car sport in Britain and the Commonwealth that the R.A.C. is, perhaps, most celebrated.

As well as promoting skilful driving on the race-track, the R.A.C. has always encouraged safe driving on the roads. Its diploma for driving instructors is recognised everywhere as the hallmark of a good teacher.

TRAINING SCHEME

Road safety is the inspiration, too, of the Club's training scheme for motor-cyclists; 9000 novices have graduated through the scheme since it was started some nine years ago.

So, from a meeting of "cranks" in 1897 has grown an organisation providing a nation-wide—indeed world-wide—service for hosts of Britain's motorists and motor-cyclists. The R.A.C. can look back on its sixty years with justifiable pride.



FOUNDERS OF A NATION—new picture-version of the Pilgrim Fathers' story (8)



By April 1623 the Pilgrims were again desperately short of food. They were obliged to use what corn they had as seed for their next harvest, and for the time being, bread disappeared from their tables. They had nothing left with which to buy food from the Indians, and only one leaky boat in which to go fishing. Often they were obliged to dig for clams (large shellfish) on the seashore to save themselves from starvation.



In the early summer a drought stopped the growth of their corn. They all went out into the fields and prayed, with a result that astonished a few Indians who happened to be there. In the morning the sky had been clear and the day hot, as usual, but towards evening clouds rolled up and rain fell. For the rest of the summer showers were interspersed with sunshine, and they reaped an abundant harvest to supply their winter needs.



Not long afterwards two ships arrived at Plymouth with Puritan settlers. But the newcomers were dismayed when they saw the gaunt and tattered condition of the Mayflower Pilgrims. Some of the immigrants wanted to return to England, and others wept at the harsh prospect this new land seemed to offer them. But the Pilgrims welcomed and comforted them, saying they might all hope to enjoy better days together.



Seamen from the ships who were spending an evening in a house ashore built too large a fire there—the weather was becoming cold—and the house caught alight. It was next door to the one in which the Pilgrims had stored all their harvest, the loss of which would have reduced them to their former state of want. Everyone turned out to fight the blaze in the hope of saving the precious storehouse from destruction. Buckets were passed from hand to hand.

Can they subdue the flames before they reach the food store? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, April 27, 1957

I. The naturalist

JENNINGS gazed at the tadpoles in solemn wonder, unable to take his eyes off the plump, pear-shaped globules wriggling to and fro in the pond water at the bottom of the jam jar. They seemed to be in such a hurry, darting about in spirals and zig-zags like crotchets and quavers trying to escape from a sheet of music.

Carefully, he placed the jam jar in the reeds at his feet and then turned and squelched his way to the far side of the pond where Darbishire was kneeling in the mud, scribbling on a scrap of damp paper supported on the sole of an old boot which he had salvaged from the water.

"Hey, Darbi, I've just caught another batch of tadpoles. Bung them down on the inventory," Jennings said as he approached.

Darbishire broke off from his clerical labours and blinked at his friend through mud-splashed spectacles.

"Give me a chance, Jen. I haven't finished recording the first lot yet."

"Well, get a move on. We'll have them hatching out into frogs before they've been registered as tadpoles at this rate. Just put: 15.23 hours. Six decent-sized specimens rounded up by J. C. T. Jennings, Chief Spotter, Frog and Tadpole Department."

"I can't put all that on this titchy little bit of paper," Darbishire complained. "It'll have to wait till I go indoors to copy it out properly."

The eleven-year-old secretary of the Form 3 Natural History Club took his duties seriously. This was only to be expected, for Charles Edwin Jeremy Darbishire was of an earnest disposition. He was somewhat shy by nature—a loyal follower with no ambition to become a leader. In this he differed from his friend, Jennings, a lively impulsive boy of the same age, with a wideawake look in his bright blue eyes and a ready enthusiasm to take command in the exploits and activities of school life.

"Seen anything else worth putting in the record?" Jennings asked as he squeezed the muddy water from his handkerchief, which he had been using as a makeshift fishing net.

"I saw a moorhen," Darbishire replied. "I've been making up a poem about it. A jolly good one, too. It's called *The Feathered Songsters*."

"It's called what?"

"It means birds, really," Darbishire explained. "After all, we've got bird-watching down on our list of activities as well as frog-spotting, don't forget. Would you like to hear it?"

"No, not much."



The ever-popular schoolboy in a grand new serial

TAKE JENNINGS, FOR INSTANCE

by Anthony Buckeridge

"Well, I'll tell you, then," the poet went on. "It starts off:

*'Hark how the feathered songster sings,
On rumty-tumty-tumty wings.'*"

"Funny sort of poem," said Jennings. "Funny sort of wings, too."

"Well, actually I got a bit stuck on the second line. It isn't finished yet, but it'll come out all right in the end."

"I dare say. But I can't stay here all afternoon listening to rumty-tumty poetry recitals," Jennings said firmly. "I'm going back to the other side of the pond to see if I can find any newts."

One of the chief attractions of the pond at Linbury Court was that it was situated at the farthest end of the grounds, well away from the main school buildings grouped round the quadrangle, and beyond the cricket and football pitches which stretched from the headmaster's garden to the overgrown wilderness of shrubs and bushes where the land was low-lying and marshy.

Here, on the edge of the pond,



Darbishire was kneeling in the mud, scribbling on a scrap of damp paper supported on the sole of an old boot

the keen naturalist could hunt for tadpoles after cricket on a fine half-holiday, secure in the knowledge that his movements would not be visible to the master on duty supervising the knock-about games of French cricket and rounders taking place on the playing-field.

"Be careful! It's terribly soggy around those parts, Jen," Darbishire warned his friend. "I got plastered with mud last time I

went over there, and wet right through to my socks, too. Matron didn't half create."

"What of it? I'm not afraid of a bootful of water," Jennings replied.

"I know, but Mr. Wilkins said the other day that the Arch-beako would put it out of bounds again if many more people got their feet wet."

Jennings snorted. "Huh! Just like grown-ups! They say: 'Why don't you start a Natural History Club?' and as soon as you do start one they threaten to stop it in case you get your shoes muddy. Anyway, I'm going to look for some newts, whatever anyone says."

Someone comes

"Righto, then," Darbishire rose to his feet, his knees squelching out of the mud with a faint slopping sound. "Shall I come with you?"

"No. You stay here. I'm going alone... All on my rumty-tumty own." A wide grin spread over Jennings' face. "How's that for poetry, Darbi? And without thinking, too."

As he stooped to pick up his jam jar on the far side of the pond, Jennings heard the unmistakable creaking of twigs broken underfoot. Someone was coming! It was Mr. Carter, the senior master.

The next second a deep voice rang out. "Who is that boy over there? Is there anyone in those reeds?"

For a moment Jennings hesitated. He was breaking no rule in being behind the pond, and yet in his muddy, dishevelled state he had no wish to present himself for the master's inspection if it could be avoided. Perhaps, if he remained quiet, Mr. Carter could be persuaded to think that no one was there after all, or even that the rustling sounds were caused by some water fowl making its way through the bullrushes.

Fatal call

Jennings was rather proud of his ability to imitate the call of a moorhen. If Mr. Carter should call again...

At that moment Mr. Carter did call again. "Is there anyone in those reeds? Answer me at once, do you hear!"

The answer came back loud and clear. "Quark, quark, quark!" croaked Jennings in what he hoped was a lifelike impression of a moorhen calling to its young.

"Oh, so it's you, is it, Jennings," Mr. Carter said promptly.

"Come here, I want to speak to you."

Jennings sighed in despair. It was impossible to fool Mr. Carter.

In spite of this blemish in his character, the senior master was liked and respected by all the boys at Linbury Court. He was a quietly-spoken man of middle age, who could be relied upon to listen to their troubles with a friendly ear and to dispense justice with understanding.

"That was *not* a very good imitation of a moorhen, Jennings," he remarked, as the boy emerged from the reeds. "It sounded more like a cement-mixer grinding a shovelful of gravel."

"Sorry, sir."

"What were you doing behind the pond?"

"I was only frog-spotting, sir. It's like bird-watching, only different, because..."

The explanation tailed off as he became aware that the master was

eyeing his unkempt appearance with disapproval.

Finally Mr. Carter said: "I am all in favour of your Natural History Club, Jennings. In fact, I have been making arrangements with the headmaster to let you go farther afield to collect more specimens..."

"Oh, thank you, sir. That's jolly decent of you."

"But there won't be much chance of that happening if the club is banned in the meantime because of the state you are in," Mr. Carter went on. "You know the rule about not getting your clothes dirty. Just look at your shoes and socks!"

Warning

"It'll brush off, sir," said Jennings, wiping his muddy pull-over with hands which were even muddier.

"That's not the point. I'm warning you that you are liable to have all these interesting pond-side activities stopped if you don't watch your step."

"Yes, sir," said Jennings. He pointed to the jam jar and asked: "But we can keep these tadpoles now we've caught them, can't we, sir?"

Mr. Carter nodded. "Yes, all right. And now go indoors and wash your hands and knees. Change your shoes and socks and brush your clothes. Mr. Wilkins won't want you going to tea looking like a scarecrow."

Jennings will be back again next week—and in more trouble.

Jennings

The most popular schoolboy in Britain

7 books of his misadventures, told by

ANTHONY BUCKERIDGE:

JENNINGS GOES TO SCHOOL

JENNINGS FOLLOWS A CLUE

JENNINGS' LITTLE HUT

JENNINGS AND DARBISHIRE

JENNINGS' DIARY

ACCORDING TO JENNINGS each 5s.

OUR FRIEND JENNINGS 7s. 6d.

and in June, a new book

THANKS TO JENNINGS 7s. 6d.

'Plenty of humour and things you can really laugh at.'—B.B.C.

From any bookshop

Jennings

COLLINS

You can win

- A PYE PORTABLE RADIO
- A RALEIGH BICYCLE
- A TRI-ANG DOLL'S PRAM
- A HORNBY ELECTRIC TRAIN
- or one of 300 magnificent prizes

Brock Books Competition

24 April to 11 May

GET YOUR ENTRY FORM FROM YOUR BOOKSELLER

Children of 14 and under can enter



BROCKHAMPTON PRESS
MARKET PLACE • LEICESTER

24 Q.E. INCLUDING NEW GHANA FREE WITH QUALITY APPROVALS OR PRICE 1/3 WITHOUT APPROVALS



Applicants must include 2d. for postage. (Abroad 6d. extra.) Monthly selections a speciality. Adult Collectors catered for. If you wish you may join "THE CODE STAMP CLUB," Sub. 1/- You receive Badge, Membership Card listing fine gifts. Approvals sent monthly. (Postal Sec. Est. 1897.) Parents' or headmasters' permission required

WRIGHT'S STAMP SHOP, Canterbury, Ltd. (Dept. 17), Canterbury, Kent.

STAMP PACKETS OF QUALITY (All Different)

10 Barbados	2/-	100 Austria	2/-
10 Brit. Guiana	2/-	50 Brazil	1/9
10 Trinidad	2/-	100 Japan	2/-
10 Abyssinia	2/-	50 Portugal	1/6
10 Cyprus	1/3	100 Holland	1/9
10 Nigeria	1/3	25 Monaco	2/-
50 Gt. Britain	2/3	50 New Zealand	2/6
100 Hungary	1/6	25 Uruguay	1/9
10 Hong Kong	1/3	25 Venezuela	1/9
25 Egypt	1/-	25 Ecuador	1/3
25 Slam	1/9	10 Nepal	2/-
10 Gold Coast	1/3	200 France	3/9

POSTAGE on orders for Packets, 2d. EXTRA. GIBBONS' LOOSE LEAF ALBUMS: "Britannia," 112 leaves for Brit. Cols. only, 17/6; "Switzerland," 100 leaves for Swiss World, 16/6; "Simplex Junior," 75 plain Quadrille Leaves, 21/1. All album prices are inclusive of postage.

STAMPS BY WEIGHT on paper, as collected from all parts of the World, 5/6 per lb., post free.

J. A. L. FRANKS

7 Allington St., Victoria, London, S.W.1

We will give over 100,000 STAMPS

FREE this month. Have you had your share? Write today for your parcel of 200 stamps which will be sent ABSOLUTELY FREE to everyone who sends 5d. in stamps and asks to see our discount Approvals. Take advantage of this offer now and increase the size and value of your collection.

Please inform your parents.

P. OWEN (CN)

HEYSOMS AVE., GREENBANK, NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE.

FREE! GRAND PACIFIC PACKET

24 stamps including the unusual stamps shown and 20 others from Islands in the PACIFIC OCEAN including Wallis & Futuna and Oceanic Settlements.

★ ABSOLUTELY FREE! Just send 2d. for postage and ask to see our popular Sterling Discount Approvals. Please tell your parents.

STERLING STAMP SERVICE (Dept. CN30), Lancing, Sussex

CHEMISTRY

Wide range of apparatus and Laboratory Equipment.

Send 3d. stamp for Price List.

A. N. BECK & SONS (Dept. C.N.)

60 Stoke Newington High Street, London, N.16

100 STAMPS OF THE WORLD—FREE

This fine packet of stamps (all different) is offered Free to readers who send 2d. postage (overseas 3d.) and ask to see our Discount Approvals. (Price without Approvals—1/- post free.) Please tell your parents.

WOOLCOCK,

Cape Road, Seaton, Worthington, England

FOR the MOST MODERN and ATTRACTIVE STAMPS of the WHOLE WORLD at the LOWEST PRICES, ask permission to write for Approvals to G. Précious, 125 Sandfield Lane, Gainsborough, Lincs. Please enclose 2d. stamp.

ALL APPLICATIONS for advertisement space in this publication to be addressed to, Advertisement Manager, CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER, Tallis House, Tallis Street, London, E.C.4.

ROCK'N'ROLL of the Century. They'll crowd round when you strum. **ELVIS PRESLEY**, great U.S.A. Rock'n Roll Star, has his name on every one. Easy to play, simple free Tutor, including carrying box. Nylon strings give good old Rock'n Roll and the Calypso effect. Colourful to a degree, made of Styrene for strength. Good tone, tunes accurately. Send 24/6, plus 2/6 post. **ELVIS PRESLEY** UKRSTG, with self-playing apparatus incorporated, 10/11, post, etc., 2/-.

HEADQUARTER and GENERAL SUPPLIES LTD. (Dept. CN/4) 196/200 Coldharbour Lane, Loughborough Junc., London, S.E.5. Open all Sat. 1 p.m. Wed.

BRITISH COLONIALS

Q.E. II stamps from ANTIGUA, GAYMAN IS., NORTH FORN VIRGIN IS., ST. KITTS, MONTserrat and other "out of the way" Colonies. These stamps are COMPLETELY FREE, but please send 2d. for postage, and ask to see British Colonial Approvals. Juniors should obtain parents' permission.

A. E. RUDGE MILLOOK, BUDE, CORNWALL

STAMPS ON APPROVAL BRITISH COLONIALS. These include mint new issues. Used selection, earliest to modern.

Send now for the selection which interests YOU. PROMPT & INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION. POST FREE

Parents' signature please if under 14 years. ALBUMS, CATALOGUES, ETC.

BENNETT, 44 Darrel Rd., Retford, Notts.

FREE

50 PICTORIAL STAMPS

This packet of stamps is given absolutely FREE to all genuine applicants for my superior Approvals enclosing 2d. stamp for postage, and parents' permission. Only used Br. Colonial Approvals. Overseas applications invited.

D. L. ARCHER (N) 2 Litchfield Way, Broxbourne, Herts.

★ AN AMAZING FREE GIFT ★

ROYAL HISTORICAL COMMEMORATIVE PACKET SILVER JUBILEE CORONATION, SILVER WEDDING STAMPS, ETC.

This packet containing the above stamps from the British Empire is offered FREE to applicants for my Bargain Approvals and enclosing 2d. for postage. Please tell your parents before replying.

S.W. SALMON (C23), 119 Beechcroft Rd., Ipswich

GREAT CAMPING OFFER

RIDGE TENT SENT FOR 4/-

BRAND NEW de luxe "Safety" Tent. All colours. Complete. Ideal Cyclists, Campers. Length 7 ft. 3 in. sleeping base 4 ft. 6 in. wide x 3 ft. 6 in. high x 12 in. walls, all approx. Weight 34 lbs. Cash 55/- or 4/- deposit and 6/- monthly. WITH FLY-SHEET 83/6, or 9/3 deposit and 9/9 monthly. Both carr. 2/6. LISTS, TENTS, BINOCULARS, CAMERAS, WATCHES, RINGS, JEWELLERY, ETC. TERMS.

SPORTS SHORTS

CRICKET starts again this week-end. The West Indies tourists will be seen for the first time at the Saffrons, Eastbourne, on Thursday, when they will be playing a two-day "warm-up" game against a selected team. On Saturday, Lord's opens its season with the M.C.C.'s annual match against Yorkshire. Surrey will also be in action, playing Cambridge University, at Cambridge.

WHEN the County cricket season opens there should be no fitter side than the Yorkshire team. When the players assembled at Headingley for the pre-season practices they found that a ten-day programme of physical training had been arranged. Instructors from the Carnegie Physical Training College helped to give the players a limbering-up course.

Making notes

IAN CRAIG, the young Australian cricketer who captained the recent touring side in New Zealand, will be arriving this week in London. He will spend the summer in this country studying pharmacy with a well-known British firm of chemists. No doubt he will take every opportunity of watching our cricketers, too, and take notes 'for future Test reference.' He expects to spend next winter in South Africa as a member of the Australian touring team.

GOOD news for athletics fans is that Gordon Pirie will be seen on our tracks for at least another 3½ years. Pirie, who emigrated to New Zealand a few months ago, had intended to return to this country for the summer only; but the lure of top-class athletics has decided him to return to England until at least the Olympic Games of 1960 in Rome.

ONE of Charlton Athletic's youngest players, 19-year-old Trevor Edwards, is not likely to forget this season. He did not make his first team debut until mid-February, but two months later he was chosen to play for Wales against Ireland at right-back.

Girl in goal

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Heather Brown, of Feltwell, Norfolk, is goalkeeper in her school's Junior Soccer XI. Heather has been playing football since she was seven, sometimes out in the field, but preferably in goal. So keen is she on soccer that her parents have bought her a pair of football boots!

THE first of Britain's major tennis tournaments begins on Monday with the Hard Court Championships at Bournemouth. Several of the world's leading players will be competing, the two favourites being Jaroslav Drobný and Lew Hoad, who injured his back a few months ago and has had to wear a plaster cast. He has recovered his former fitness, however, and should be top seed.

THE Indoor Pool at Wembley will house a capacity crowd on Friday evening when the Amateur Boxing Association finals are fought. Since the previous finals, several of the champions have become professionals, leaving titles vacant.

All eyes on Nicholas

INTERNATIONAL experts at the Public Schools' Championships in London on Saturday will be closely watching 18-year-old Nicholas Head as he runs up to throw the javelin. He uses a style



MANY professional footballers play golf to help them keep fit. But Ronnie Allen, the West Bromwich Albion and former England centre-forward, has become so good at the game that on Monday he will be taking part in the Amateur Championship to be held at Hoylake, Cheshire.

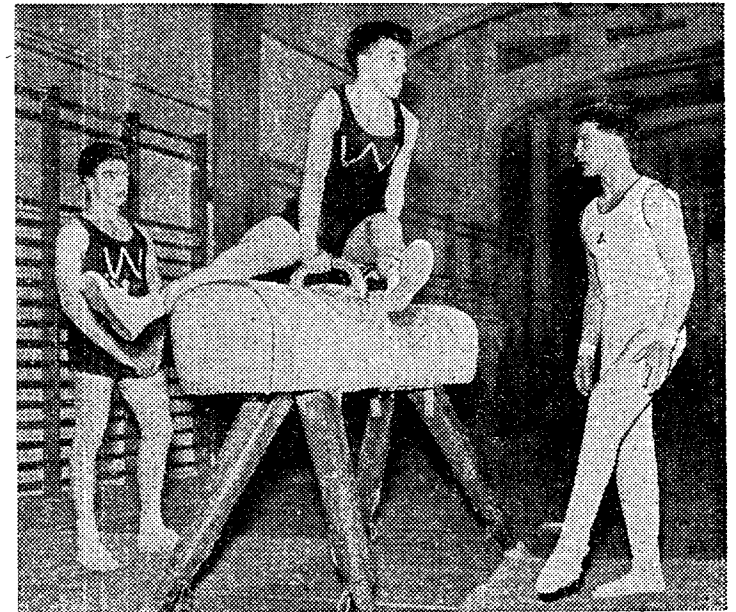
SEVEN members of the Girls' Golfing Society will be playing an "international" match against French girls at St. Germain on Saturday. Included in the British team are Bridget Jackson, the English champion, Angela Ward, who holds the Scandinavian title, and Ruth Porter, our girls' champion.

WHEN the M.C.C. team were in South Africa this summer, Trevor Bailey was approached by Tony Tilden, an 18-year-old leg-break bowler and promising batsman, who said that he would like to play cricket in England. Now Tony has come to England and has joined the ground-staff of the Essex C.C.C., of which Trevor Bailey is secretary.

In the circus

ALTHOUGH he has retired from football, the former French international goalkeeper Julien Da Rui is still between the posts—in a circus. In every town visited by the circus five of the local amateur sharpshooters pit their skill against his, points being awarded for goals, crossbars hit, and so on. Each player has four shots.

WILL we see professionals and amateurs competing together at Wimbledon before long? Recently such a tournament was held in America, and proved a great success, and now the United States Lawn Tennis Association have chosen a committee to examine the possibilities of both types of players competing in the same championships.



On the horse

To popularise gymnastics, a number of courses have been arranged in the Y.M.C.A. building in Great Russell Street, London. Members of the Army Physical Training Corps will do the coaching, and here we see one of them instructing two lads from the Wanstead County High School.

ELEPHANT-SEALS ARE SETTLING DOWN

THREE elephant-seals from South Georgia, the first of their kind seen at Regent's Park for 26 years, are settling down well in their enclosure.

"The elephant-seals have now been officially named," a Zoo spokesman told me. "The eight-foot-long male will be called Lobo; the bigger female, a seven-footer, will be known as Lulu; and the smaller, 4½-foot female, will be called Lété.

"The only problem we have had so far is to persuade Lulu to find her appetite. She refuses most of the fish thrown to her, and they are quickly eaten by her companions. Hand-feeding has been tried, but is not yet very successful. These aquatic animals are known to be very fond of squids, however, and we are hoping to get some sent up regularly from the south coast.

"As yet they are not putting too great a strain on our food supplies. But they may do eventually. Some of these animals take as much as three hundredweight of fish a day when mature."

A "warning" notice in front of the anacondas' den, asking visitors not to tap on the glass panel, has proved so successful that the idea is likely to be extended to other reptile cages. "In the past,

specimens have sometimes been injured by striking the glass or rushing wildly round after being scared by people tapping the panel," an official told me. "Some snakes strike back at the panel and injure their noses, or worse, damage their mouths and bring on 'canker-mouth,' a malady not easy to cure because it is liable to affect the bone. Moreover, a snake suffering from this complaint will not feed."

"Another risk is that the visitor may hit the glass too hard and crack the panel, entailing an expensive replacement. The warning on the anacondas' cage has been plainly heeded, as we have had far fewer mishaps since it was put up. We intend to display similar warnings at the cages of the cobras and other excitable reptiles."

RED ANT COLONY

One of the largest colonies of red wood ants yet seen in the Zoo has just been put on exhibition at the insect house.

"As we were able to obtain one big colony, we have put them on the two ant islands with a connecting bridge over the intervening moat," said Overseer Mr. Ashby.

"The ants are already busy dig-

ging themselves in, to fashion a new nest, and visitors can watch their activities through a couple of big magnifying screens. As these ants all belong to one colony there is no fighting. But we are getting a fair number of casualties caused by ants falling into the moat. Usually, however, the ant in the water is promptly pulled out by dozens of willing companions."

Half-a-dozen nesting barrels and boxes fixed in trees at the Three Island Pond have been reconditioned and furnished with straw in the hope that some of the Carolina tree-ducks will shortly make their homes there. Meanwhile, a sharp watch is being maintained on these duck-homes, since there is a danger that some of them may be taken by mallard from the neighbouring park.

"We do not like ejecting a mallard, once a bird has installed herself in one of our nest-boxes," said Mr. John Yealland, curator of birds. "But we may have to do so. Our tree-ducks will not nest anywhere but in these boxes and barrels put up in the trees for them, whereas mallard are not at all particular—last year, for example, one established her nest right in the middle of one of our choicest flower-beds!"

CRAVEN HILL



Learning the right way

One of the Sisters at the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham, shows how to fill a hypodermic syringe.

HOLIDAYS AFLOAT

Adventurous holidays with canoeing and sailing have been arranged for young people this summer by the Scottish Youth Hostels Association. Weekly courses in small boat sailing are to be held from June 29 to August 17 in the Kyles of Bute at £4 15s. a week, excluding food, which members can buy at the hostel store and cook themselves.

Similar courses from July 20 to August 17 at Strone, in the Clyde estuary area, include meals

and cost £7 15s. On both courses there is a reduction of 5s. a week for people under 16.

For the over-sixteens there is also canoeing on Loch Lomond, and sea-going instruction on board a schooner in the Firth of Clyde.

Applicants for all these courses must be members of a Youth Hostels Association, and must be able to swim. More information can be obtained from the S.Y.H.A., 7 Bruntsfield Crescent, Edinburgh 10.

Win a Free Holiday on 'Palm' Island FLY THERE BY AQUILA AIRWAYS

"Palm" Toffee offers you a wonderful chance to win a holiday on a palm covered isle. Think of it—travelling to Madeira by luxury flying-boat . . . staying in a fine hotel . . . on a real semi-tropical island. You can take Mum or Dad with you, too. Or you can have a cash prize instead if you prefer.

600 OTHER PRIZES AS WELL!

Even if you are not lucky enough to win this first prize, there are 600 consolation prizes. Now read the rules carefully.

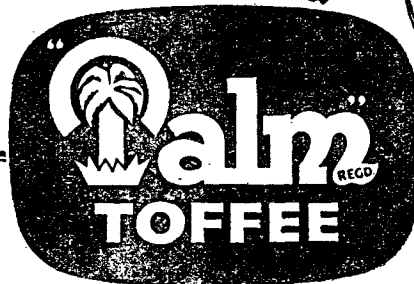
THIS IS WHAT YOU MUST DO

1 Fill in the missing letters of the clue words which you can see listed. (These are all things that you might expect to see on a pirates' island.) You will notice that these words are all numbered.

2 On the map shown here you will see that the same numbers are printed. Copy as exactly as you can the outline of this map onto a piece of plain white paper. Now paint or draw on your own map the answers to the clue words that you have solved. To show you what we mean we have answered the first clue which is: "PIRATES' SHIP" and we have drawn it in on our chart. You must do the same with the other six clues on your own map.

3 When you have painted or drawn all these clues, colour in the rest of the island and the sea around it.

- 1 P-RAT-S' SH-P
- 2 BR-DGE
- 3 P-LM TR--S
- 4 N-T-VE VILL-GE
- 5 SW-MP
- 6 M-UNTA-NS
- 7 TR-AS-RE HOARD



READ THESE RULES

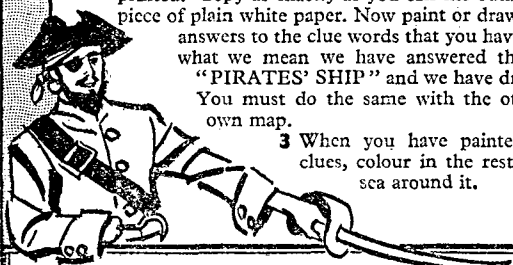
- 1 Your picture can be any size and should be painted, or drawn with coloured crayons.
- 2 Children up to and including the age of 16 years are eligible for this competition. Age will be taken into account in the judging.
- 3 On the back of your map write in capital letters your name, address and age on your last birthday.
- 4 Entries will be judged by a special panel of judges including a well-known artist. Their decision will be final. You may send any number of entries but with each one you must include two wrappers from "Palm" Toffee Bars. These can be bought from all good sweet-shops.

5 All entries must be received by the 15th June, 1957.

6 No entries can be returned and no correspondence can be entered into. All entries become the property of Walters' "Palm" Toffee Limited.

7 Stamped entries must be posted to:—Walters' "Palm" Toffee Competition (E1) 47 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

8 The name of the winner of the first prize will be published in this magazine as soon as possible after the closing date and all winners of consolation prizes will receive them by post.



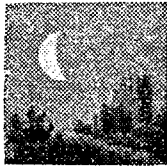
CURRENT VIEW

IMAGINATION goes a long way, it seems. We heard the other day of a daily help who does not approve of electric ovens.

"What I says," she declared, "is that do with 'em as you will, they always makes the food taste of electricity."

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Jupiter is in the south and Mars is in the south-west. In the morning Saturn is in the south-west. The picture shows the Moon as it will appear at half-past seven on Thursday morning, April 25.



THAT'S OFF!

"Is there soup on the menu?" the guest inquired.

"There was, sir," murmured the waiter, "but I've just wiped it off."

IT'S NOT A KNOT!

TWO ordinary handkerchiefs, shown to your friends singly, can be lightly rolled together and tossed into the air. When caught in the hands and held by one corner they appear to be knotted together.

The answer to the trick is a white rubber band placed over



thumb and first finger (see sketch) a moment before the trick is started. In "rolling" the handkerchief the rubber band is slipped from the fingers over two of the handkerchief corners. The "knot" (or rubber band) disappears when the handkerchiefs are pulled apart.

CHANGE ONE LETTER

Can you find the three-letter word answers to the following clues? Each answer contains two letters from the previous answer.

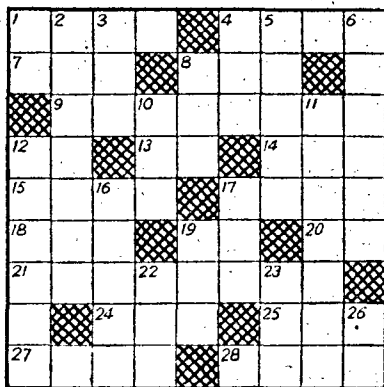
ANIMAL, a fruit, part of a fish, fastener, enclosure, vegetable.

PUZZLE PIECE

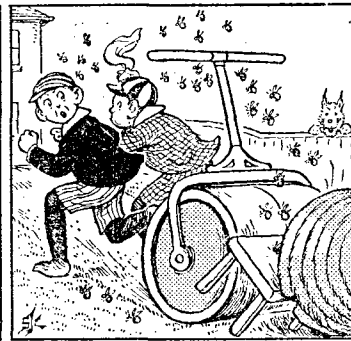
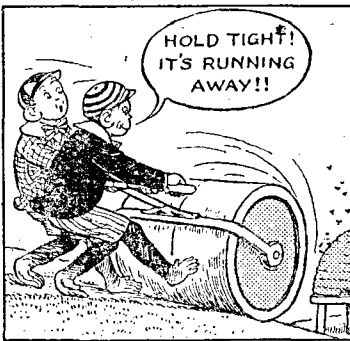
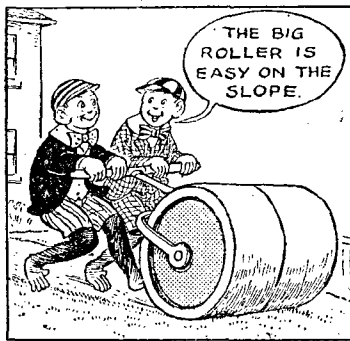
WHAT is the difference between a thought, a sigh, and a puzzled person?

Crossword puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Native of Scotland. 4 The top of a house. 7 Hill. 8 When ginger, you drink it! 9 It will make you better. 12 Out of Print. 13 That is. 14 Maiden name. 15 Rough grating sound. 17 Badger's home. 18 Craft. 19 Thus. 20 Theosophical Society. 21 Extremity of an airline. 24 Row with it. 25 Favourite. 27 Lost in thought. 28 Finest. READING DOWN. 1 Saint. 2 Contrast. 3 Mineral. 4 Fabulous bird. 5 Give an opinion. 6 Navies. 8 Dish. 10 Swim. 11 They might sting you. 12 Fine speaker. 16 For sharpening razor. 17 Boy. 19 Title. 22 Wipe your feet on it. 23 Monkey. 26 Tea total. Answer next week



THE ROLLER RUNS AWAY—AND SO DO JACKO AND CHIMP



BEDTIME TALE

DRAGONS ARE NOT ALWAYS WICKED

ONE night last autumn when the willow wrens were flying back to Africa Winnie Willow Wren met her first dragon.

The flock were nearing France when a cross-Channel plane roared over them, one red eye and one green winking warningly. "There goes a Flying Dragon. Look out!" cried her parents.

Each day then, as the birds rested and fed during their cross-Continental journey, Winnie heard stories of the wickedness of these dragons who flew slap into flocks with sad results for the birds.

"Though we often wound them, too, I hear," said her mother. But once back in Africa they forgot about the Flying Dragons. Here, round the lakes, were swallows and martins and chiffchaffs from their own English county, and many a twitter they exchanged about the old country. Then, as the sun grew hotter, the

birds began to long for the cool, damp English lanes.

The chiffchaffs went first, and the willow wrens followed. Soon, however, they ran into contrary winds, and had to land again. But with no planes landing or taking off just then no one guessed this was a Mediterranean airport.

Nor could Winnie guess, as she chased a gnat through an open hatchway, that next moment it would be shut, and she would be quickly borne aloft. Inside a Flying Dragon!

Then, at last the Dragon stopped roaring, and presently she could smell wet grass. This was London Airport.

Out she darted, winging straight for her home wood.

"So the summer birds are arriving," said the airport official who saw her go. And he went to report so that planes might avoid them. JANE THORNICROFT

TRICKING THE APPLE TREE

"Oh, apple tree, dear apple tree, Please, throw an apple down to me.

Yours are so large and fair and round, Please, drop me one upon the ground."

"Oh, no, my child, that cannot be," The old tree seemed to say to me. "My apples, large and round and fair, Look better high up in the air."

"Oh, apple tree, dear apple tree, If you mean all you say to me, Please, shake your head real hard for no, And I'll believe it's really so."

And so he wagged his head at me, That dear old, friendly apple tree.

Down fell the apples at my feet— He'd nodded, instead, to give me a treat!

RIDDLE-ME-REE

My first is in castle, and also in sail;

My second's in spade, and also in pail.

My third is in lobster, with claws that rip;

My fourth is in sand, but not in ship.

My fifth is in lighthouse, the fisherman's guide;

My sixth is in seaweed, washed up by the tide.

My whole is brought up from the depths of the sea, And found in the bathroom, I'm sure to be.

SPORTS QUIZ

WHAT sport do you associate with the Calcutta Cup?

How many players make a water polo team?

What game is played at Hurlingham?

In which sport is the term jack-knife used?

The answers to these puzzles are given in column 5

MY UNCLE'S RABBITS

My Uncle Len's rabbits

Have very strange habits, According to what he tells me He says that they sing (A remarkable thing!) And one I'm most anxious to see.

He says they can walk On their hind legs and talk, And sit at the table for tea. One's learning the lyre To accompany the choir, In an anthem for rabbits in "C"!

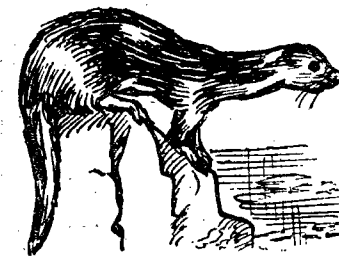
My Uncle Len's rabbits Have very strange habits, According to what he tells me. But my Auntie Milly Says he's being silly— And I think I'm inclined to agree.

ANSWERS TO JUST A FEW WORDS

1. B Vocabulary means the words of a language; the words known to or used by a particular person.
2. A Piebald means coloured black and white in patches, like the plumage of a magpie. Pie was the old name for this bird. A related word is pied, meaning of two or more colours (as in "Pied Piper," who wore a costume of two colours). Bald is from an old word *ball* meaning white spot.
3. C Arid means dry, parched, barren. (From Latin *aridus*.) A Medieval means belonging to the Middle Ages. (From Latin *medius*, middle, and *aeum*, age.)
5. C To capitulate is to yield or surrender on certain conditions (or heads). It comes from a Latin word *capitulare*, meaning to arrange under heads.
6. B To grimace is to pull a wry face. It was originally a French word.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Change one letter. Pig, fig, fin, pin, pen, pea. Puzzle piece. A thought is an idea, a sigh is an oh dear, and the puzzled person was you dear! Carpenter's shop. Pincers, callipers, drill. Steel rule, plane. Fill the space. Liver, arm, lip, head, mouth. Riddle-me-ree. Sponge. Sports quiz. Rugby (England v. Scotland). Seven, Polo, Diving.



tail render it more at home in water than on land, but it can and does travel long distances across country.

It has a double coat, so that it can remain long under water without wetting its skin.

BADGES

OF YOUR FAVOURITE
FOOTBALLER
IN ACTION

1 EACH
(2'6 FOR 3)



ALL THE PLAYERS
SHOWN IN ACTION
IN THEIR CLUB COLOURS

- ROGER BYRNE
- TOM FINNEY
- NAT LOFTHOUSE
- REG. MATTHEWS
- STANLEY MATTHEWS
- JACKIE MILBURN
- DON REVIE
- BILLY WRIGHT

POSTAGE PAID Send P.O. and addressed envelope to

SOCCER CLUB (Dept. C),

THE MILL, MAY ST., NEWCASTLE, STAFFS.